

American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence

(ABCTE)

DANTES Test Centers' Authorization

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) offers certification programs to individuals who hold a bachelor's degree or higher and who pass a federal background check. Eligible Troops to Teachers and Spouses to Teachers candidates are encouraged to apply and pursue ABCTE's *Passport to Teaching* certification.

Only the ABCTE test vendor NCS/Pearson/Virtual University Enterprise (VUE) is authorized to administer ABCTE certification exams.

Background

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (www.abcte.org) is a not-for-profit organization created in 2001 to address the need for a highly qualified teacher in every American classroom. ABCTE offers the rigorous, five-step *Passport to Teaching*SM certification process for knowledgeable individuals entering the teaching field. *Passport to Teaching*SM offers individualized learning plans for teaching candidates to complement the knowledge and skills they have obtained through previous work experience. ABCTE is funded in part through US Department of Education grants.

ABCTE is recognized as an approved provider of teacher certification in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. As of August 2005, Florida, Idaho, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Utah recognize *Passport to Teaching* as a route to state certification. Charter Schools in Texas and Arizona will also accept *Passport to Teaching* as a method of demonstrating highly qualified status

Address

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence
1225 19th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 261-2620 or Toll Free 1-877-669-2228
Fax: (202) 261-2638

E-mail: dsaba@abcte.org
Website: www.abcte.org

Description

ABCTE Certification Exams

The following are certifications offered by ABCTE. For each certification, candidates must also take the Professional Teaching Knowledge Examination for each certification discipline.

- Multiple Subject (used for Elementary Education and Special Education Certification)
- General Science
- Mathematics
- English language arts
- Special education
- Biology

Eligibility Requirements

All candidates must hold a bachelor's degree in or higher (a specialization) and pass a federal background check.

Teacher Certification Examination Structure

To earn the *Passport to Teaching* certification, the candidate must pass both the Professional Teaching Knowledge exam and a subject area exam (see above for subject areas currently offered)*. The Professional Teaching Knowledge exam consists of 80 multiple-choice questions and an essay. Candidates are given two (2) hours to complete the multiple-choice section of the test, and one (1) hour in which to write an essay in response to a given prompt. Each subject area examination consists of 130-150 questions. Candidates are given three (3) hours to complete the multiple-choice section of the exam. The English exam includes an essay portion as well, and the candidate has one (1) hour to complete the essay.

***NOTE: Please note that candidates pursuing special education certification must pass three examinations: Professional Teaching Knowledge, the Multiple Subject Exam, and a Special Education exam.**

**Professional
Teaching
Knowledge
Core
Competencies**

The Core Competencies that are tested are shown below tested by the Professional Teaching Knowledge Examination:

- Organizing, Planning and Designing Instruction for Student Success
 - Effective Instructional Strategies
 - Classroom Management and Organization
 - Monitoring Students and Working with Parents
 - Assessment
 - Professional Teaching Knowledge Writing Component
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**Multiple
Subject Exam
core
competencies**

The competencies measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented in the examination are:

- Reading and English language arts
 - Reading acquisition
 - Reading comprehension
 - Research skills
 - Math
 - Number sense
 - Algebra and functions
 - Geometry and measurement
 - Data analysis, statistics, and probability
 - Science
 - Life science
 - Earth and space
 - Physical science
 - Scientific investigation skills
 - Social studies
 - World history
 - United States history
 - Civics
 - Geography
 - Economics
 - Reasoning skills
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**English
language arts
core
competencies**

The competencies measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented in the examination are:

- Vocabulary
 - Interpretation of expository text
 - Interpretation of literary texts
 - Speech
 - Writing strategies and applications
 - Research strategies
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**Mathematics
core
competencies**

The competencies test whether candidates are able to:

- Reasoning
 - Number sense
 - Algebra and functions
 - Linear algebra
 - Geometry
 - Measurement
 - Probability, Statistics, and Data Analysis
 - Trigonometry
 - Calculus
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**Biology Core
Competencies**

The competencies measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented in the examination are:

- Scientific Investigation
 - Biochemical Basis of Life
 - Cell Biology and Microbiology
 - Classical Genetics
 - Molecular Biology
 - Evolution
 - Comparative Physiology
 - Human Physiology
 - Plant Biology / Physiology
 - Ecology
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General Science Competencies The competencies measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented in the examination are:

- Scientific Investigation
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Physics

Special Education core competencies The competencies measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented in the examination are:

- Philosophical, Historical, and Legal Foundations
- Professional and ethical Practice
- Professional Communication and Collaboration
- Characteristics of Learners with Disabilities
- Assessment Learning Environment and Social Interactions
- Effective Instructional Delivery
- Reading Acquisition
- Spelling
- Language Acquisition and Development
- Writing Strategies

How to Obtain an Application

Application	<p>Visit www.abcte.org or call 1-877-669-2228 to find out more about ABCTE's <i>Passport to Teaching</i> certification including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MyPass, the online certification management tool• Preparation materials and personalized advising services• Self-Assessments and Individualized Learning Plans• Frequently Asked Questions <p>To locate the nearest testing location or to register for an exam visit Pearson VUE online at www.vue.com/abcte</p>
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Certification Fees

Certification Fees	<p>The enrollment fee for <i>Passport to Teaching</i> certification is \$500. This includes the two certification examinations (Professional Teaching Knowledge and a subject area), all advising services, Self-Assessments and Individualized Learning Plans, and access to the MyPass management tool. Special education certification has an enrollment fee of \$750 and includes three examinations: Professional Teaching Knowledge, the Multiple Subject Exam, and the Special Education exam. All advising services, Self-Assessments and Individualized Learning Plans, and access to the MyPass management tool are included.</p>
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Cancellation and Refund Policy

Cancellation & Refunds	Special Education Candidacy is valid for 18 months from the date of enrollment. Candidacy for all other certifications is valid for one year from the date of enrollment. Refund requests must be received within 30 days of the date of enrollment.
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Administration

Military Administration	<p>ABCTE offers certification examinations to members of the Reserve Components currently eligible to receive after-the-fact reimbursement.</p> <p>There are two categories of military certification examination applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-pay Applicant – applicant pays for examination and organization fees• Military Assistance Applicant – Military Service pays part of the examination and organization fees.
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Civilians Administration Overseas	ABCTE's international test vendor, NCS/Pearson/Virtual University Enterprise (VUE) will provide tests to DoD civilians stationed overseas in approved sites.
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Recertification and Obtaining State Teacher Certification

Maintenance Requirements

Once certified by ABCTE, the applicant's *Passport to Teaching* certification will not expire.

Each certificate holder is encouraged to work with his or her current or future state of residence to achieve full state certification. At this time, Florida, Idaho, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Utah recognized the *Passport to Teaching* as a route to full state certification. Each state's certificates have different maintenance requirements.

Furthermore, each individual who earns the *Passport to Teaching* holds a premier, national teaching credential that gives them the "highly qualified" designation.

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Problems

Problems

If information pertaining to the examination is not received in a timely manner or if you have questions, please contact:

Ms. Carolyn Connor at ABCTE at 1 (202) 261-2620.

Certification Retake Policy

Retake Policy

All candidates for certification are eligible for two retakes of the Professional Teaching Knowledge and each subject area certification examination. Candidates who fail to earn the *Passport to Teaching* after retaking the examinations twice are encourage by ABCTE to pursue a different route to teacher certification.

Examination Preparation

Study Preparation

Prospective candidates are encouraged to utilize the available advising services complete with Self-Assessments and Individualized Learning Plans. The advising staff will recommend a variety of preparation materials for each individual candidate. Candidates are encouraged to visit <http://www.abcte.org/passport/testprep.html> for more information about preparation resources and exam objectives.

Security

Test Loss or Compromise

Refer to Part I of the *DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH)* for complete instructions if there is an ABCTE test loss or compromise.

Contact DANTES immediately and refer to specific Service regulations for complete instructions if there is an ABCTE test loss or compromise. DANTES address is:

DANTES	Phone: (850) 452-1360
Code 20F	DSN: 922-1360
6490 Saufley Field Road	Fax: (850) 452-1161
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243	

Approved for Veterans Reimbursement

MGIB Reimbursement

As of August 2005, ABCTE is in the process of applying for approval so that eligible veterans may obtain reimbursement from the Department of Veterans Affairs for the cost of taking ABCTE examinations. Additional information about this program may be found on the VA's website at: www.gibill.va.gov/education.

Official Source of Information

**ABCTE
Certification
Examinations**

The ABCTE website is the official source of data about ABCTE's certification examinations, which can be found at www.abcte.org

Web Pages and E-mail Address

**DANTES Web
Address**

Access the DANTES web pages at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

**ABCTE Web
Address**

Access the ABCTE web page at www.abcte.org

**DANTES E-
mail address**

The DANTES Certification Program E-mail address is certprog@voled.doded.mil.
